

GT 7/31/93

Amendment 2 proves catching

As with so many other issues, Colorado has proven to be a bellwether state in the movement to stem the legal revolution of gay rights.

In the wake of Colorado's passage of Amendment 2 in November, organizations in a number of other states are now attempting to pass similar measures. This week in Oregon, two towns and four counties passed local versions of the amendment, which prohibits granting special legal protection to homosexuals.

In at least half a dozen other states, organizers are attempting to pass measures based on Amendment 2. Statewide movements are now under way in California, Michigan, Idaho, Florida, Missouri and Washington. The Oregon group, called the Oregon Citizens Alliance, plans to sponsor other local initiatives later this year.

These organizers have refused to buckle to the verbal and economic intimidation of militant pro-gay-rights groups. Some of the militants have attempted, with no visible success, to punish Colorado voters through an economic boycott

— a boycott that has obviously fizzled. (Colorado ski resorts enjoyed a banner winter, and this summer's tourism season could be one of the best ever.)

Neither have the organizers been discouraged by the harsh language hurled at them by opponents. Such ludicrous charges bear no resemblance to reality, but rather they are used as rhetorical weapons to browbeat people into silence.

This grass-roots, nationwide movement toward Amendment 2-style legislation suggests that what the voters of Colorado did in November was not a fluke. It was not an endorsement of "hate" or "homophobia." It was a rational attempt to prevent the government from carving out special legal privileges for a group of people based on their sex lives.

The vast majority of people who oppose the granting of special legal status to homosexuals — in Colorado as well as in other states — are not motivated by hate or fear. They are motivated by a healthy aversion to the use of government power to impose on them acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle.

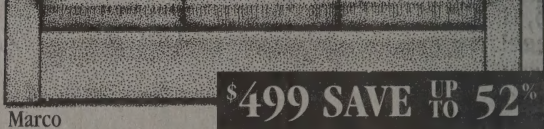
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